

Maryland Council for New Americans
Workforce Working Group
Minutes (draft)

March 18, 2009 3-5 pm
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Dr. Amjad Riar, Chair

- Welcome and introductions

In attendance: Earl El-Amin, Michael Fix, Karina Fortuny, Mark Goldstein, Barbara Gradet, Donna Kinerney, Shannon Lederer, Irene Lee, Michael Lin, Sonia Mora, Nery Morales, John Odukoya, Pamela Paulk, Matt Power, Lily Qi, Linda Rabben, Amjad Riar, Eric Seleznow, Karla Silvestre, Pat Hatch, Anna White, Adam Ortiz, Angela Lagdameo. Thank you to Casey Foundation for hosting.

- Minutes were approved.
- Powerpoint presentations were made were made (PPTs attached/available)
 - Maryland Labor Market and Workforce Trends (Eric Seleznow, Governor's Workforce Investment Board)
 - Demographics (Matt Power, Mark Goldstein, Maryland Department on Planning)

Discussion: Recent months of bad economic data have required a rewrite of our labor situation, though Maryland continues to be one of the healthiest states in relative economic terms. Healthcare, education and govt sectors growing. Did not have information on agricultural workers on hand. Some in group were surprised at the amount that new Americans have contributed to the labor force, 15.6% of workforce is foreign born, and 96% of all change came from the foreign born. Large concentration of foreign born are in the 25-40 year old age category – prime working age. Native Marylanders have been leaving the state overall, however state's population growth is attributed to immigrants. Much immigrant settlement in the suburbs rather than cities (Montgomery County is the new 'Ellis Island'). Adult Education Transition process has incorporated much of this data, and a good deal of work that compliments our ESL and training objectives, as reflected in the DLLR report authored by staff.

- Report out by subgroups
 - Training and ESL: Donna Kinerney reported group has been active, suggested bringing in the data presented to day on labor/workforce trends, interested in looking at cost effectiveness of state investment in English classes, Washington State provides a good model on related programs. Discussion about how possible it is to dileanate a dollar figure for 'return on investment' for English acquisition using

existing data (Shannon, Michael, Sonia and Karina suggested existing research resources). Next step is to develop this data for the report.

- Attracting Key Workers: Michael Fix reported that group had yet to meet but will have a report for the following meeting.
 - Credentialing: Amjad Riar reported that group recommends strong focus on credential transfer citing difficulties professional persons have transferring skills to US workforce, there are many 'misplaced' workers who are skilled but in unskilled or underskilled professions creating a great missed opportunity for our state. This is particularly true in the healthcare professions. Montgomery College's foreign nurses training program is a model, and it is time to expand this statewide, and use this model in other professions. Next steps include having representatives from various licensing boards at the next meeting for a discussion on how we can incorporate innovations used elsewhere, or chart a new leadership course.
- Creating report for Governor O'Malley: Adam reported that work has begun to establish an outline for the complete report. That will be shared at the next meeting. Question raised on what "children in public schools" language in Executive Order meant – responses included that the group had the authority to respond with its own interpretation of that language, but Adam would also look into it further. Also indicated that the appointed council would like a presentation from the Chair and a written document (short) on the work of our group at their April 7 meeting.
 - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Adam reported that guidance from the Feds on funding is beginning to be issued and there will be more to report at the next meeting. Elisabeth Sachs, the DLLR policy lead on this issue, should also be in attendance.
 - Topics to be considered for the next meeting include: interface with various licensing authorities, best practices from elsewhere (Washington State and Ontario, Canada), and to make sure that we expand our discussion outside of healthcare workers, such as teachers (group member Shannon Lederer from AFT is a resource).
 - Next meeting tentatively scheduled for April 29. Location and time TBA.
 - Adjournment